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## Family forever

[Kelly Nankervis](#) , Midland Daily News

The giggles of small children and coos of babies, clapping and the smack of a gavel welcomed 14 children to their new families Tuesday at the Midland County Courthouse.

The children, ranging in age from 7 months to 17 years, were adopted in the third annual Adoption Day Celebration, which was presided over by Midland County Probate Judge Dorene Allen and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly.



After being ordered to give their first foster child back to her biological mother after two months, the Creasmans were "gun shy" about getting too attached to their second foster child, Gabriel. "We didn't name him at first," Bobby said. "You felt like somebody was constantly pulling you back," Katy said. "It's nice to know that he is ours. No one can doubt anymore," she said about the relief she felt on Tuesday.

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"Today, we all are witnessing a miracle human beings helped happen," Kelly said before the adoptions began. During the day, 275 adoptions were finalized in the state.

This year, there were bears for the kids who wanted them, suckers personalized with each child's name, and special light-up pens that Allen and Kelly used to sign the orders placing children with their new parents -- some foster parents, one a dad adopting his wife's son, and some couples wishing to adopt a child.

Bobby and Katy Creasman of Midland were the second family to become complete in the celebration, adopting Gabriel, 9 months old.

"It's been an absolute incredible blessing to have him in our lives," Bobby Creasman told Allen before she signed the order.

Gabriel has lived with the Creasmans since he was 5 weeks old, and now has them spellbound with his little personality.

"He's supposed to be with us," Bobby later said.

Gabriel's life didn't start out with the safety and security of a family. Katy explained that his birth mother did not tell anyone she was pregnant, and already had children. Gabriel lived with another foster family for his first five weeks, and until Tuesday, didn't have an official name.

"Baby Boy was his name," Katy said.

Gabriel now has a few nicknames, Gabe for one.

"Bobby usually calls him 'Thug' because he's always beating me up," Katy said, laughing.

Gabriel is a healthy little guy, and gets into everything and even has a few favorites already, the Creasmans said.

"He loves his little toothbrush," Bobby said, adding his other favorite is a stuffed animal sheep.

"This boy can down some biscuits and gravy," Katy said. "He likes anything."

Bobby and Katy don't have children of their own, and decided adoption was the way to go after moving to Midland from North Carolina because of a job. Before Gabriel, they cared for a baby girl, until her mother changed her mind about giving up her daughter.

"He's definitely made it worth it," Bobby said.

In the courtroom, Allen and Kelly posed for photographs with all the adopted children and their new families, and allowed the children to use the gavel to close their own proceedings.

The adoptees also signed a quilt, made by workers at the Department of Human Services, that hangs year-round in the probate court.



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